

13F. Minimization of Contamination

Regulations: 180 NAC 4-020

Criteria: *Applicants for new licenses must describe how facility design and procedures for operation will minimize, to the extent practicable, contamination of the facility and the environment, facilitate eventual decommissioning, and minimize, to the extent practicable, the generation of radioactive waste.*

All applicants for new licenses need to consider the importance of designing and operating their facilities so as to minimize the amount of radioactive contamination generated at the site during its operating lifetime and to minimize the generation of radioactive waste during decontamination. In the case of fixed gauge applicants, these issues usually do not need to be addressed as a separate item, as they are included in responses to other items of the application.

Sealed sources and devices that are approved by the Agency, NRC or an Agreement State and located and used according to the respective SS&D Registration Certificate usually pose little risk of contamination. Leak tests performed at the frequency specified in the SS&D Registration Certificate should identify defective sources. Leaking sources must be immediately withdrawn from use and decontaminated, repaired, or disposed of according to Agency requirements. These steps minimize the spread of contamination and reduce radioactive waste associated with decontamination efforts. Other efforts to minimize radioactive waste do not apply to programs using only sealed sources and devices that have not leaked.

Response from Applicant: The applicant does not need to provide a response to this item under the following condition. Agency will consider that the above criteria have been met if the applicant's responses meet the criteria for the following sections: Radioactive Material - Data, Facilities and Equipment, Radiation Program - Operating and Emergency Procedures, Radiation Safety Program - Leak Testing, and Waste Disposal.